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ORIGIN PM-09

INFO	OCT-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-10	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	EA-10	DODE-00	H-01	MMO-01	IO-15	NEA-06	NSCE-00
	ARA-16	NSAE-00	HA-06	L-03	PA-01	VA-01	HHS-04
	INRE-00	SAL-01	SIG-03	OES-09	ACDA-12	ICAE-00	SP-02
	SPRS-02	/136 R					

DRAFTED BY PM/TMP:BLMURRAY
APPROVED BY PM:JDOBBINS
IO/UNP:PWILCOX
EUR/RPM:WMENOLD
EA/VLC:RPORTER
INR/PMA:RHANSEN
L/PM:MMATHESON
ACDA/MA:RMIKULAK
OSD:MMACDONALD/TDASHIELL
JCS:CBAY(INFO)

----------020366 090533Z /15

O P 082220Z MAR 82 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: AGENT ORANGE AND YELLOW RAIN
REFS: A) MOSCOW 2035; B) MOSCOW 2168; C) GENEVA 2343;
D) ADAMSON/MURRAY 2/23/82 TELECON
1. (LOU) PURSUANT TO REPORTS REF A AND B, AND REQUESTS REFS C AND D, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE AS APPROPRIATE:
-- RECENT TASS STATEMENTS CHARGING THAT IN THE VIETNAM WAR THE U.S. CAUSED "MASS LOSS OF LIFE" BY USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE WHOLLY UNFOUNDED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Hearn DATE 8/31/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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-- AT NO TIME DURING THE VIETNAM WAR DID THE U.S. USE LETHAL OR INCAPACITANT CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS. THE U.S. HAS NEVER R E P E A T NEVER USED TOXIN WEAPONS.
-- U.S. USE OF RIOT CONTROL OR IRRITANT AGENTS AGAINST ENEMY COMBATANTS AND THE USE OF THE DEFOLIANT "AGENT ORANGE" DURING THE VIETNAM WAR IS A MATTER OF EXTENSIVE PUBLIC RECORD. WE HAVE NEITHER DENIED THESE ACTIVITIES NOR ENDEAVORED TO KEEP THEM FROM THE PUBLIC.
---THE U.S. NEVER R E P E A T NEVER DELIBERATELY USED THE DEFOLIANT "AGENT ORANGE" AGAINST PEOPLE. MOREOVER THE U.S. DISCONTINUED THE USE OF "AGENT ORANGE" IN VIETNAM, AND THE UNITED STATES AS WELL, IN 1970 WHEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED A REPORT
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INDICATING POSSIBLE LONG-TERM HARMFUL EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE TO "AGENT ORANGE." "AGENT ORANGE" HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN USED IN THE U.S. FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PURPOSES.
-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING A MORE EXTENSIVE INTERAGENCY REVIEW AND STUDY OF HEALTH COMPLAINTS BY VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO "AGENT ORANGE."
F Y I: MORE RECENT ACCOUNTS OF HEALTH COMPLAINTS BY VIETNAM VETERANS, DUE TO EXPOSURE TO HERBICIDE ORANGE OR ITS CONTAMINANT, DIOXIN, ARE UNDER EXTENSIVE REVIEW AND STUDY BY AN INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP. AT THIS TIME, THE ONLY PROVEN SYMPTOM OF DIOXIN EXPOSURE IS A SKIN RASH, CHLORACNE. THERE ARE NO KNOWN, PROVEN LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH OR REPRODUCTION FROM EXPOSURE TO LOW LEVELS OF HERBICIDE 2,4,5-TRICHLOROPHENOXYACETIC ACID (ONE COMPONENT OF HERBICIDE ORANGE) OR DIOXIN (THE MANUFACTURING CONTAMINANT). E N D F Y I.
-- THE U.S. HAS ADHERED STRICTLY TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1975 BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND RELATED RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.
-- THESE OBLIGATIONS, OF COURSE, CONCERN THE USE OF LETHAL AND INCAPACITANT CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN WAR, AND THE USE OR EVEN POSSESSION OF TOXIN WEAPONS AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. THE USE OF HERBICIDES AND RIOT CONTROL OR IRRITANT AGENTS IN DEFENSIVE MILITARY MODES TO SAVE LIVES IS PERMITTED.
-- EFFORTS TO RESURRECT THE ISSUE OF U.S. USE OF RIOT CONTROL AGENTS AND DEFOLIANTS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ARE DESIGNED SIMPLY TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM
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SOVIET USE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE USE OF TOXINS AND

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OTHER LETHAL R E P E A T LETHAL AND INCAPACITANT CHEMICAL AGENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN.
-- COMPARING TOXIN WEAPONS TO "AGENT ORANGE" MOREOVER IS LIKE COMPARING CYANIDE WITH CIGARETTES
-- IF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES GENUINELY WISH TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THEY COULD DEMONSTRATE THIS BY:
(1) CO-OPERATING FULLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE;
(2) TAKING SERIOUS STEPS TO RESOLVE CONCERNS EXPRESSED OVER THE CAUSE OF THE 1979 ANTHRAX OUTBREAK IN SVERDLOVSK; AND
(3) INDICATING GENUINE READINESS TO ACCEPT EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE INSPECTIONS, OF A TREATY BANNING CHEMICAL WEAPONS.
2. (U) INFO ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO USE POINTS ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE.
3. (U) ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES PLEASE PASS TO ICA, AS APPROPRIATE.
4. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HAIG
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